

RECEIVED
26.11.

WASHINGTON POST
24 April 1986

JACK ANDERSON and JOSEPH SPEAR

Soviets Are No Friends of Qaddafi

Last November we suggested that Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, who stands at the center of a worldwide terrorist network, was living in terror himself and would likely be ousted by a coup within a year.

We cited intelligence reports that portrayed Qaddafi as a haunted man, with nerves rubbed raw, who gulped down sleeping pills and complained that his enemies were trying to poison him.

We also quoted a top-secret Central Intelligence Agency evaluation, which suggested he was "very vulnerable" to a coup. No less than two dozen anti-Qaddafi groups have been plotting his downfall. But the Soviets, who have befriended him and stocked his arsenal, are expected to beat them all to the kill.

CIA reports, including intercepted communications compiled before the U.S. bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi, indicate that the Soviets would like to replace the volatile Qaddafi with the man who has been protecting their interests inside Libya's revolutionary regime. He is Qaddafi's No. 2 man, Abdul Salaam Jalloud.

According to one intercepted message, the Soviets are "looking forward to Qaddafi's downfall." Another top-secret CIA report quotes a high Soviet military official as saying, in a private conversation, that Qaddafi is a "madman on top of a pile of gold." The reference presumably is to the black gold under Libya's desert sands.

For Qaddafi's part, he is described by the CIA as "xenophobic and anticommunist." He "once offered Egypt generous inducements to expel the Soviets." He moved closer to Moscow because he wanted

Soviet arms more than he hated communism. Still, the CIA reports that he "had to be persuaded by Prime Minister Jalloud to negotiate the first arms accord with Moscow in May 1974."

It has been Jalloud more than Qaddafi who has turned Libya into a Moscow-armed confrontationist state. Qaddafi let the Soviets inside his tent reluctantly, because of the military aid and the power this gave him. He repeatedly and sharply "warned the Soviets that he will not be used 'like other Arab leaders.'"

Concludes a top-secret CIA analysis: "Qaddafi has almost certainly neither softened his ideological opposition nor his basic distrust of the Soviets. On the contrary, his basic hostility to them may ultimately disrupt the liaison." It seems more likely that the Soviets will do the disrupting. They have far too much at stake in Libya to leave their fortunes in the hands of the unpredictable Qaddafi. Not since they were booted out of Egypt in 1972 have they had a better opportunity to control North Africa. They are establishing a powerful new beachhead in North Africa through Libya, Sudan and Ethiopia.

What has happened, clearly, is that the Soviets have transformed Libya into a forward logistical base to solidify their hold on North Africa. They have shipped more than \$20 billion worth of military hardware to Libya. Ostensibly this formidable arsenal was "sold" to Qaddafi, who may think he owns it. But the Soviets aren't likely to leave their forward base in the hands of the unreliable Qaddafi.

They would prefer the reliable Jalloud.